

THE
Earle of Gowries con:
spiracie against the Kings Maie-
stie of Scotland.

At Saint Iohn-stoun vpon Tuesday,
the first of August.
1600.



LONDON
Printed by Valentine Simmes, dwelling on Adling hill,
at the signe of the white Swanne.
1600.

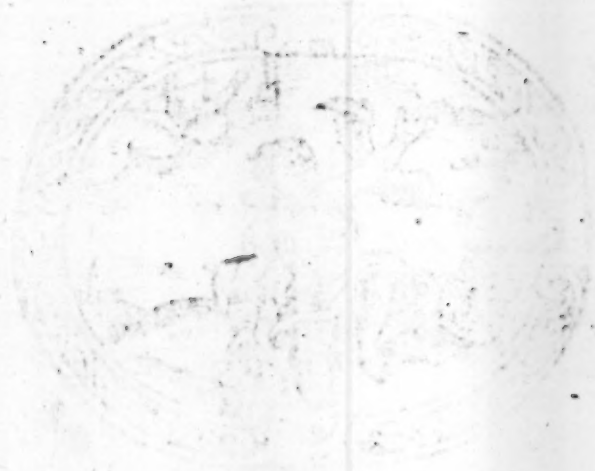
THE

FAIR OF GOWRIES CO.

Spinnage against the Kings Maie-
ties of Scotland.

As Saint John Town upon Tuesday

1600



LONDON

Printed by W. Stansfeld dwelling on Aldgate hill.
1600



A Discourse of the vnnaturall and
vile conspiracie, attempted against his
Maiesties person at Saint Iohnstoun vpon
the fift day of August being Tuesday
1600.



Is Maiestie having his residence at
Falkland, & being daily at the buck-
hunting (as his vse is in that season)
vppon the fift day of August, being
Tuesday, he raide out to the Parke,
betweene sixe and seuen of the clocke
in the morning, the weather being
wonderfull pleasant and seasonable.
But before his Maiesty could leape on horse back, his High-
nesse being now come downe by the Equerie: all the hunt-
men with the hownds attending his Maiestie on the green,
and the Court making to their horses, as his Highnesse selfe
was: Master Alexander Ruthven second brother to the late
earle of Gowrie being then lighted in the towne of Falk-
land, halsted him fall downe to ouertake his Maiestie before
his on-leaping, as he did. Where meeting his Highnesse,
after a very lowe curtesie, bowing his head vnder his Ma-
iesties knee, (although he was neuer wont to make so lowe
courtesie) drawing his Maiestie aparte, he beginnes to dis-
course vnto him, but with a very dejected countenaunce, his
eyes ener fixed vpon the earth, howe that it chaunced him in
the euening before, to be walking abroad about y^e fields, ta-
king the ayze solitarie alone, without the towne of saint
Iohnstoun, where his present dwelling with the Lorde his
A 2 brother

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brother was, & there by accident affirmed to haue recountred a base like fellow, unknowne to him, with a cloke cast about his mouth: whome as he enquired his name, and what his errand was to be passing in so solitarie a part, being from all waies: the fellow became on a sodaine so amazed, and his tongue so faultered in his mouth, that vpon his suspitious behauiour he begonne more narrowly to look vnto him and examine him: and perceiuing that there appeared some thing to be hid vnder his cloke, he did cast by the lappes of it, and so finds a great wide pot to be vnder his arme, all full of coyned gold in great peeces: assuring his maiesty that it was in very great quantity. Vpon the sight wherof, as he affirmed, he tooke backe the fellow with his burthen to the towne, where he priuately, without the knowlege of any man, tooke the fellow, and bound him in a priuy derved house: and after, locked many doores vpon him, and left him there and his pot with him, and had hasted himselfe out of saint Johnstoun that day by foure howers in the morning, to make his maiestie aduertised thereof, according to his bound dutie: earnestly requesting his maiestie with all diligence and secrecie that his maiestie might take order therewith, befoze any know therof: & swearing and protesting, that he had yet concealed it from all men: yea, from the earle his own brother. His maiesties first answer was (after thanking him for his good will) that it could not become his maiesty to meddle any waies in that matter, since no mans treasure that is a free and lawful subiect can, by the law appertaine vnto the King, except it be found hid vnder the earth, as this was not. Wherevnto he answered, that the fellow confessed vnto him that he was going to haue hid it vnder the ground, but coulde not take leasure at that time to enquire any further of him. Wherevnto his maiestie replied, that there was great difference betwixt a deede, and the intention of a deede: his intention to haue hid it, not being alike as if it had beene found already hidde. Maister Alexanders
aun.

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answere was, that hee thought his Maiestie ouer scrupulous in such a matter, tending so greatly to his maiesties profite: and that if his maiestie deferred to meddle with it, that it might be, that the Lord his brother, and other great men might meddle with it, and make his maiestie the more adoe. Whereupon the King beginning to suspect that it had beene some foraine gold brought home by some Jesuites for practising Papistes (therewith to stirre vp some new sedition as they haue oftentimes done befoze) inquired of the said master Alexander, what kinde of coyne it was, and what a fellowe he was that carried it. His answer was, that so farre as he could take leisure to see of them, that they seemed to bee foraine strokes of coyne, and although the fellowe, both by his language and fashions seemd to be a Scots felow, yet he could neuer remember that he had seene him befoze. These speeches increased his maiesties suspition, that it was foraine coyne brought in by some practising Papistes, and to be distributed into the countrie, as is befoze sayd: And that the fellowe that carryed it, was some Scots Priest, or Seminarie so disguised, for the more sure transporting thereof.

Whereupon his maiestie resolved that he would send backe with the said master Alexander, a seruant of his owne, with a warrant to the Shouff and Bailiffes of Saint Iohnston, to receiue both the fellowe and the money of master Alexanders hand, and after they had examined the fellowe, to retaine him and the treasure, till his maiesties further pleasure was knowne.

Wherat the sayd master Alexander stirred maruellously affirming and protesting, that if eyther the Lord his brother, or the Bailiffes of the towne were put on the counsaile thereof: his maiestie would gette a verie badde count made to him of that treasure, swearing that the great loue and affection hee bare vnto his Maiestie, had made him to preferre his Maiestie in this case, both vnto himselfe and his brother. For the which seruice hee hum-

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bly craued that recompence, that his maiesty would take the paynes once to ride thither, that he might be the first seer thereof himselfe: which being done, he would remit to his Maiesties owne honourable discretion, how farre it would please his Maiestie to consider vpon him for that seruice.

His Highnesse being stricken in great admiration, both of the vncouthnesse of the tale, and of the strange and stupide behauior of the Reporter: and the Court being already hoisted, wondring at his Maiesties so long stay with that gentleman, the morning being so faire, the game already found, and the huntsmen so long staying in the fields on his Maiestie: he was forced to breake off, only with these words, that he could not now stay any longer from his sport, but that he would consider of the matter, and at the end of his chase, giue him a resolute answer, what order he would take therein. Wherevpon his Maiestie parted in haste from him towards the place where the game was.

Maister Alexander parting from his Maiestie very discontent, that indelayedly he raide not to saint Iohnstoun as he desired him: protesting that his Maiestie would not find euery day such a choise of hunting, as he had offered to him, and that he feared that his Maiesties long delay and slownesse of resolution, would breede leasure to the fellow, who was lying bound, to cry, or make such dinne, as would disappoynt the secrecie of that whole purpose, and make both the fellow and the treasure to be meddeled with, befoze any word could come from his Maiesty: as also, that his brother would misse him, in respect of his absence that morning, which if his maiesty had pleased to haste, he might haue prevented: arriuing there in the time of his brothers & the whole towne being at the sermon: whereby his Maiestie might haue taken such secret order with that matter, as he pleased, befoze their out-comming from the church. But his Maiestie, without any further answering him, leaping on horse backe, and riding to the dogs, where they were beginning to hunt, the
said

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said maister Alexander stayed still in that place where he left his Maiestie: and hauing two men with him, appointed by the Earle his brother, to carry backe vnto him the certayne netes in all haste, of his Maiesties comming (as hereafter moze particularly shall in this same discourse be declared)

He directed the one of them called Andzew Henderson, Chamberlaine to the saide Earle, to ride in all haste to the Earle, commanding him, as he loued his brothers honoꝝ, that he should not spare foꝝ spilling of his horse, and that he should aduertise the Earle, that he hoped to moue his Maie-
tie to come thither, and that he should not yet looke foꝝ hym, the space of thre houres thereafter, because of his Maiesties hunting, adding these wordes: Pray my Lord my brother to prepare the dinner foꝝ vs. But his Maiestie was no sooner ridden vppe to a little hill aboue the little woodde, where the dogges were layde on in hunting: but that notwithstanding the pleasant beginning of the chase, he could not stay from musing and wondering vpon the netes. Wherevpon, without making any body acquainted with this purpose, finding John Resmith Chirurgian, by chance riding beside him, his Maiestie directed him backe to bring master Alexander with him: who being brought vnto his maiestie, and hauing newly directed, as said is, one of his men that was with him back to my Lord his brother, his Maiestie vnknowing oꝝ suspecting that any man liuing had come with him, then tolde him that he had bene aduising with himselfe, and in respect of his last wordes so earnest with him, he resolved to ride thither foꝝ that arrand in his owne person, how sone the chase was ended, which was already begunne. Like as his Maiestie, vpon the very ending of these wordes, did ride away in the chase, the said maister Alexander following him at his backe: no other creature being with his Highnes, but he, and John Hamilton of Orange, one of his Maiesties master-stablers, the rest of the Court being all before in the chase, his Maie-
tie onely being cast backe vppon the staying to speake with
maister

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maister Alexander, as is before said.

The chase lasted from about seauen of the clocke in the morning, untill eleuen, and moze, being one of the greatest and sozest chases that euer his maiesty was at : all which time the sayde maister Alexander was (for the most part) euer at his maiesties backe, as is sayd. But there neuer was any stop in the chase, or so small a delay, that the sayde maister Alexander omitted to round his maiesty, earnestly requesting him to hasten the end of the hunting, that he might ride the sooner to saint John-Stoun. So as at the death of the bucke, his maiesty, not staying vpon the curry of the Diere, (as his vse is) scarcely took time to alight, awayting vpon the comming of a fresh hourse to ride on, the greatnes of the chase hauing wearied his hourse.

But the sayd maister Alexander would not suffer the king to stay in the parke where the bucke was killed, whiles his fresh hourse which was already sent for, was brought out of the equery to him, (although it was not two flight shot off) but bounds betwixt the part where the buck was killed, and his maiesties equery : but with very importunity forced his maiesty to leap on agayne vpon that same hourse, that he had hunted all the day vpon, his fresh hourse being made to gallop a mile of the way to ouertake him : his maiesty not staying so much as vpon his sword, nor while the duke and the earle of Darre, wyth diuerse other Gentlemen in his company had charged their hourse : Onely saying vnto them, that hee was to ride to saint John-Stoun to speake with the earle of Gowry, and that he would be presently backe againe before euen.

Wherevpon some of the Court gallopped backe to Falkeland as fast as they coulde, to chaunge the sayd hourse, but could not ouertake his Maiesty, untill hee came within foure mile of saint John-Stoun. Others rid forward with their horses, wearied as they were, whereof some were compelled to alight by the way, and had they not both refreshed their

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their horses, fedde them, and given them some grasse by the way, they had not carried them to S. Iohnstoun. The cause of his Maiesties seruants following so fast, vnderbred by him, being only grounded vpon a suspition they had conceiued that his Maiesties intencion of ryding, was for the apprehension of the Maister of Oliphant, one who had late laid downe a vile & proud oppression in Angus. For repairing of the which, they thought that his Maiestie had some purpose for his apprehension.

But the saide Maister Alexander seeing the Duke and the Earle of Mar, with diuerse other of the court, getting fresh horse for following of his Maiestie, earnestly desired him that he would publish to his whole traine, that since he was to returne the same euening, as is befoze said, they needed not to follow him, especially that he thought it meetest that his Maiestie should stay the Duke & the Earle of Mar to follow him, and that he should only take three or foure of his own poore seruants with him, affirming that if any Noble man followed him, he could not answer for it, but that they would marre that whole purpose.

Wherupon his Maiestie halfe angry, replied, that he would not mistrust the Duke nor the Earle of Mar in a greater purpose nor that, and that he could not vnderstand what hinderance any man could make in that errand.

But these last speeches of Maister Alexanders, made the King to begin to suspect what it should meane: wherupon many and sundry thoughts began to enter into the Kings minde. But yet his Maiestie could neuer suspect any harme to be intended against his Highnesse by that young Gentleman, with whom his Maiestie had bene so well acquainted, as he had not long befoze bene in suite to be one of the Gentlemen of his Chamber: so as the farthest that the Kings suspition could reach to, was, that it might be that the Earle his brother had handled him so hardly, that the young Gentleman being of a high spirit, had taken such displeasure, as he was become somewhat besides himselfe, which his Maiestie coniectured as well by his rapted and vncomly carriage, and continuall pensiuenesse all the time of the hunting: as

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likewise, by such straunge sort of unlikely discourses, as is already mentioned.

Whereupon his Maiestie tooke occasion to make the Duke of Lennox acquainted with the whole purpose, enquiring of him very earnestly what he knew of that young Gentlemans nature, being his brother in law: and if he had perceived him to be subiect to any high apprehension, his Maiestie declaring his suspicion plainly to the said Lord Duke, that he thought him not well settled in his wits: alwayes desiring my Lord Duke not to faile to accompany him into that house, where the alleadged fellowe and treasure was.

The Lord Duke wondered much at that purpose, and thought it very unlikely: yet he affirmed, that he could neuer perceiue any such appearance in that Gentlemans inclination. But Maister Alexander perceiuing his Maiesties priue conference with the Duke, and suspecting the purpose as it appeared, came to the King, requesting his Maiestie very earnestly, that he should make none liuing acquainted with that purpose, nor suffer none to goe with his Maiestie where he should conuoy him, but himselfe onely, vntill his Maiestie had once seene the fellowe and the Treasure: wherevnto his Maiestie halfe-laughing, gaue answer, that he was no good teller of money, and bestowed therefore to haue some to helpe him in that errand: his reply was, that he would suffer none to see it, but his Maiesties selfe at the first, but afterward he might call in whom he pleased. These speeches did so increase his Maiesties suspicion, that then he beganne directly to suspect some treasonable device. Yet many suspicions and thoughts ouerwhelming euery one an other in his minde, his Maiestie could resolue vpon no certaine thing, but rode further on his iourney, betwixt trust and distrust, being ashamed to seeme to suspect, in respect of the cleannesse of his Maiesties owne conscience, except he had found some greater ground. The said Maister Alexander, still preasing the King to ride faster, although his owne horse was scarcely able to keepe company with the King for wearinesse, hauing ridden with him all the chace

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chase before. But as the King was come two miles from Falkland, the said Maister Alexander stayed a little behind the king in the way, and posted away the other servant Andrew Ruthven to the Earle his brother, aduertising him, how farre the king was on his way to come thither. Then how soone sooner the king came within a mile of the Towne of Saint Iohnstoun, he said to his Maiestie, that he would poste in before, to aduertise the Earle his brother of his Maiesties comming: Who at his incomming to him, was sitting at the midst of his Dinner, neuer seeming to take knowledge of the kings comming, untill his Brother tolde it him, notwithstanding that two of his servants had aduertised him thereof before.

And immediately vpon his Brothers report, rysing in haste from the boorde, and warning all the seruants and friends to accompany him to meete his Maiestie, who met him with the number of three or foure score, at the ende of the Insh, his Maiesties whole company and traine, not exceeding the number of sixtene persons, and all without any kinde of Armour, except Swordes, no not so much as Daggers or Whingears. His Maiestie stayed an houre after his comming to the sayde Earles lodging in Saint Iohnstoun, before his Dinner came in. The longlomenesse of preparing the same, and badnesse of the cheare, being excused vpon the suddainly comming of his Maiestie vnloked for there.

During the which time, his Maiestie enquired of maister Alexander when it was time for him to goe to that private house about that matter whereof he had informed him: whose answere was, that all was sure enough, but that there was no haste yet for an houre, vntill his maiestie had dyed at leisure. Praying his maiestie to leaue him, and not to be seene to round with him before his Brother, who hauing missed him that morning, might therevpon suspect what the matter should meane. Wherefore his maiestie addrested him to the Earle, and discoursed with him vpon sundry matters, but could get no direct answere of him, but halfe words, and imperfect sentences.

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His Maestie being set downe to his Dinner, the said Earle stood verie pensive, and with adiected countenance at the ende of his Maesties Table, oft rounding over his shoulder, one whiles to one of his seruants, and another whiles to another: and oftentimes went out and in to the Chamber. Which forme of behauiour he likewise kept befoze his Maesties sitting downe to dinner. But without any welcomming of his Maestie, or any other hartie forme of entertainment.

The Noble men and Gentlemen of the Court that was with his Maestie standing about the Table, and not desired to dyne, as the vse is when his Maestie is once set downe, and his first Seruice brought vp, until the Kinges Maestie had almost dyed. At the which time the Earle conuoyed them forth to their dinner, but satte not downe with them himselfe, as the common manner is, but came backe and stood silent at the ende of the Kings Table, as he did befoze: which his Maestie perceiving, did beginne to entertaine the Earle in a homely manner, wondering that he had not remained to dyne with his Chuefts, and entertaine them there.

In the meane time his Maestie beeing readie to rise from the Table, and all his seruants being in the Hall at theyr Dinner, the sayd Maister Alexander, standing behinde his Maesties backe, pulled quietly vpon him, rounding in his Maesties eare, that it was time to goe, but that he would faine haue bene quit of the Earle his brother, wishing the King to send him out into the Hall to entertaine his Chuefts: whereupon the King called for drinke, and in a merrie and homely manner sayd to the Earle, that although the Earle had seene the fashion of entertainment in other Countries, yet he would teach him the Scottissh fashion, seeing he was a Scottissh man: and therefore since he had forgot to drinke to his Maestie, or to sit with his Chuefts and entertaine them, his Maestie would drinke to him his owne welcome, desiring him to take it forth and drinke to the rest of the company, and in his Maesties name to make them welcome. Whereupon as he went forth, his Maestie did
rise

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rise from the Table, and desired Maister Alexander to bring Sir Thomas Erskine with him, who desired the King to goe for, ward with him, and promising that he should make any one or two follow him that he pleased to call for: desired his Maistie to commaund publicly that none should follow him. And thus the King accompanied onely with the saide Maister Alexander, comes forth of the Chamber, passes through the end of the Hall where the Noble men and his Maisties seruants were sitting at their dinner, by a Writte-pyke, and through three or foure high Chambers, the said Maister Alexander euer looking behind him euery doore as he past, and then with a more smiling countenance nor he had all the day before, euer saying, he has himselfe and safe enough kept: until at last, his Maistie passing through three or foure sunny houses, and all the doores locked behind him, his Maistie entered into a little studie, where he saw standing with a very abashed countenance, not a bond-man, but a free man, with a Dagger at his girdle. But his Maistie had no sooner entered into that little studie, and Maister Alexander with him, but Maister Alexander locked too the studie doore behinde him, and at that instant changing his countenance, putting his hat on his head, and drawing the dagger from that other mans girdle, held the point of it to the kings breast, avowing now that the king belonged to be in his will, and bled as he list: swearing many bloody oathes, that if the king cryed one word, or opened a window to looke out, that dagger should presently go to his heart. Affirming that he was sure that now the kings conscience was burdened for the murdering of his father. His Maistie wondering at so suddaine an alteration, and standing naked without any kinde of armour but his hunting hozne, which he had not gotten leysure to lay from him, betwixt these two Traytors which had conspired his life: the said maister Alexander standing as is said, with a drabone Dagger in his hand, and his sword at his side: but the other trembling and quaking, rather lyke one condemned, then an executioner of such an enterprise.

His Maistie begonne than to dilate to the sayde Maister
15 3 Alexander,

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Alexander, howe horrible a thing it was for him to meddle with his Maiesties innocent blood, assuring him it would not be left unpunished, since God had giuen him children and good subjects, and if there neither, God would raine by stocks and stones to punish so vile a deed.

Protesting before God, that hee had no burthen in his conscience for the execution of his Father: both in respect that at the time of his Fathers execution, his Maiestie was but a minor of age, and guided at that time by a Faction which over-ruled both his maiestie, and the rest of the Countrey: as also that whatsoever was done to his Father, it was done by the ordinary course of Lawe and Justice.

Appealing the sayd maister Alexander vpon his conscience, how well hee at all times since had deserved at the handes of all his race, not only having restored them to all their landes and dignities, but also in nourishing and bringing up of two or three of his Sisters, as it were in his owne bosome, by a continuall attendance vpon his maiesties dearest bedfellow, in her priuy Chamber.

Laying also before him the terrors of his conscience, especially that hee made profession according to his education, of the same Religion which his maiestie had euer professed: and namely, his maiestie remembred him of that holy man, maister Robert Rollock, whose Scholler hee was, assuring him that one day the sayd maister Roberts soule would accuse him, that he had neuer learned of him to practise such vnnaturall crueltie. His maiestie promising to him on the word of a Prince, that if he would spare his life, and suffer him to goe out againe, he would neuer reueale to any flesh liuing, what was betwixt them at that time, nor neuer suffer him to incurre any harme or punishment for the same.

But his maiesties feare was, that he could hope for no sparing at his handes: having such crueltie in his lookes, and standing so irreuerently covered with his Hat on, which forme of rigorous behauiour, could prognosticat nothing to his maiestie, but present

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present extremities. But at his maiesties perswasive language, he appeared to be somewhat amazed, and uncovering his head againe, ~~woye~~ and protested that his maiesties life should be safe, if he would behaue himselfe quietly, without making noyes or crying: and that he would only bring in the Earle his Brother, to speake with his maiesty: whereupon his maiesty enquiring what the Earle would do with him, since (if his maiesties life were safe according to promise) they could gaine little in keeping such a prisoner.

His answer onely was, that he could tell his maiesty no more, but that his life should be safe, in case hee behaved himselfe quietly, the rest the Earle his brother whom he was going for, would tell his maiesty at his coming. And with that as he was going forth for his brother, as he affirmed, he turned him about to the other man, saying these words unto him, I make you here the kings keeper until I come back againe, and loke that ye keep him upon your owne perill: and therewithall sayes to his maiesty, ye must content your selfe to haue this man hold your keeper until my coming backe.

And with these words hee passes forth, locking the doore after him, and leaving his maiesty with that man he founde there before him. At whom his maiesty then enquired, if he were appointed to be the murderere of him at that time, and both saies he was upon the counsell of that conspiracie, whose answer was with a trembling and astonished voyce and behaviour was, that as the Lord should iudge him, he was neuer made acquainted with that purpose, but that he was put in there perforce, and the doore locked upon him, a little space before his maiesties coming: as indeed at the time of the Lord maister Alexanders murthering his maiesty, he was true trembling, requesting him for Gods sake, and with many other attestations, not to meddle with his maiesty, nor to do him any harme. But because M. Alexander had before his going forth made the king to sweare that he should not cry, nor open any window, his maiesty commanded the said fellow to open the window on his right hand, which he readily did: so that although he was out in there to vse violence on the king, yet God

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so turned his heart at that time, as he became a slave to his prisoner.

While his Maiestie was in this dangerous estate, and none of his owne seruants nor traine knowing in what part of the world he was in, as his Maiesties traine was arising in the Hall from their Dinner, the Earle of Gowrey being present with them, one of the Earle of Gowries seruants comes hastily in, assuring the Earle his maister, that his Maiestie was holed and away through the Inshe, which the Earle reporting to the Noble men, and the rest of his Maiesties traine that was there present, they all rusht out together at the Gate in great haste: and some of his Maiesties seruants enquiring of the Porter when his Maiestie went south: The Porter affirmed that the King was not yet gone south. Wherevpon the sayde Earle looked very angerly vpon him, and sayde hee was but a lyar: yet turning him to the Duke, and to the Earle of Mar, lord, he should presently get them sure word where his Maiestie was. And with that ranne through the close, and vpon the staires.

But his purpose indeed was, to speake with his Brother, as appeared very well by the circumstance of the time, his brother hauing at that same instant left the King in the little study, and came downe the staires in great haste.

Immediately thereafter, the Earle cometh backe running againe to the Gate where the Noble men and the rest were standing in a maze, assuring them that the King was out long since at the backe Gate, and if they halted them not all the sooner, they would not get him ouertaken, and with that called for his horse, wherevpon they rusht altogether out at the Gate, and making towards the Inshe, crying all for their horses.

Passing all (as it was the providence of God) under one of the Windows of that study, wherein his Maiestie was. To whom maister Alexander very speedily returned, and at his incomming to his Maiestie, casting his handes abroad in a desperate

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perate manner, saide, he could not mend it, his Maiesty be-
houed to die: and with that, offered a garter to bind his ma-
iesties hands with swearing, he behoued to be bound. His
maiesty, at that word of binding, said, he was borne a free k.
and should die a free king. Whereupon he griping his Ma-
iesty by the wrist of the hand, to haue bound him, his maie-
sty releued himselfe sodainely of his grypes: whereupon, as
hee putte hys right hand to his sword, his maiesty with his
right hand seized vpon both his hand and his sworde, and
with his left hand clasped him by the throat, like as hee with
his left hand claspt the king by the throat, with two or thre
of his fingers in his Maiesties mouth, to haue stayed him
from cryeng. In this manner of wrestling his maiesty per-
force drew hym to the wyndowe, which hee had caused the
other man before to open vnto hym, and vnder the which
was passing by at the same tyme, the Kings trayne, and the
earle of Gowry wyth them, as is sayde, and holding out the
right side of his head, and right elbow, cryed, that they were
murthering him there in that treasonable forme: whose voice
beyng instantly heard and knowne by the Duke of Lennox,
the earle of Marre, and the rest of his maiesties traine there,
but the sayd earle of Gowry euer asking what it meant, and
neuer seeming any wayes to haue scene his maiesty, or heard
his voyce, they all rushed in at the gate together, the Duke
and the earle of Marre runnyng about to come by that pas-
sage his maiesty came in at. But the earle of Gowry and
his seruantes made them for an other way vppe a quyet
Turne-pyke, which was euer condemned before, and
was onely then left open, (as appeared) for that purpose.

And in this meane tyme, his maiesty, wyth strugge-
ling and wrestling wyth the said maister Alexander, had brought
him perforce out of that study, the doore whereof, for haste, he
had left open at his last in-comming, and his maiestie ha-
uing gotten, (with long strugling) the sayde maister Alex-
anders head vnder his arme, and himselfe on his knees, his
Ma. drew him backe perforce hard to the doore of the same
turnepike,

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pike, and as his maiestie was throwing his sword out of his hand, thinking to haue stricken him therewith, and then to haue shotte him ouer the staire, the other fellow standing behinde the Kinges backe, and dooing nothing but trembling all the time, Sir Iohn Ramsay, not knowing what way first to enter, after he had heard the Kinges cry, by chance findes that Turn-pike dooze open, and folowing it vp to the head, enters in into the chamber, and findes his maiestie and maister Alexander strugling in that forme, as is besore sayde: and after he had twise or thise stricken maister Alexander with his dagger, the other man withdrew himselfe, his maiestie still keeping his gripes, and holding him close to him: immediatly thereafter he tooke the sayd maister Alexander by the shoulders, and shotte him downe the staire: who was no sooner shotte out at the dooze, but hee was met by Sir Thomas Erskine and Sir Hew Hereis, who there vpon the staire ended him: the sayde Sir Thomas Erskine being cast behind the Duke and the Earle of Mar that ran about the other way, by the occasion of his meddling with the sayde late Earle in the streete, after the hearing of his maiesties crie. For vpon the hearing thereof, hee had clasped the Earle of Gowrie by the gorget, and casting him vnder his feete, and wanting a dagger to haue stricken him with, the sayd Earls men rid the Earle their maister cut of his handes: where by he was cast behinde the rest, as is sayd; and missing the companie, and hearing the sayde Sir Iohn Ramsayes voyce vpon the Turn-pike head, ran vp to the sayd Chamber, and cryed vpon the sayd Sir Hew Hereis and another seruant to follow him: where, meeting with the sayd maister Alexander in the Turne-pike, he ended him there, as is sayde: the sayd maister Alexander crying for his last wordes, *Alas I had not the witte of it.* But no sooner could the sayde Sir Thomas, Sir Hew, and another seruant winne into the Chamber where his maiestie was, but that the sayde Earle of Gowrie, besore they could gette the dooze shut, followed them in at the backe, hauing cast him directly to come vp that
that

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that priuy passage, as is befoze said : who at his first entrie, hauing a dꝛawne sword in euery hand, and a steel bonnet on his head, accompanied with seuen of his seruants, euery one of them hauing in like manner a dꝛawne sword, cried out with a great oath, that they should all die as traitors. All the which time his maiestie was still in the chamber, who seeing the earle of Gowrie come in with his swords in his hands, sought for maister Alexanders sword which had fallen from him at his out shutting at the doore, hauing no sort of weapons of his owne, as is said : but then was shut back by his owne seruantes that were there, into the little studie, and the doore shut vpon him : who hauing put his maiestie in safetie, re-encountred the sayde Earle and his seruantes, his maiesties seruants being onely in number foure, to wit, Sir Hew Hercis, Sir John Ramsay, and one Wilsonne a seruant of James Erskines, a brother of the sayd Sir Thomas, the sayd Earle hauing seuen of his owne seruants with him : Yet it pleased God after many strokes on all handes to giue his Maiesties seruantes the victorie, the sayd Earle of Gowrie being stricken dead with a stroke through the heart, which the sayd Sir John Ramsay gaue him, without once crying vpon God, and the rest of his seruants dung ouer the staire with many hurts, as in like manner the said sir Thomas Erskin, sir Hew Hercis, and sir John Ramsay, were all thre hurt and wounded. But all the time of this fight, the duke of Lennox, the Earle of Mar, and the rest of his maiesties traine, were striking with great hammers at the pfter doore, whereby his maiestie passd vp to the chamber with the said maister Alexander, which also he had locked in his by-comming with his maiestie to the chamber : but by reason of the strength of the saide double doore, the whole wal being likewise of woodes, and yelding with the strokes : it did bide them the space of halfe an houre and moze, befoze they could get it broken and haue entresse. Who hauing met with his maiestie, found beyond their expectation his maiestie deliuered from so imminent a perill, and the sayde

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late Earle the principall conspirator lying dead at his Maiesties foete. Immediately thereafter his maiesty kneeling downe, on his knees, in the midst of his owne seruants, and they all kneeling rounde about him: his maiesty out of his owne mouth thanked God of that miraculous deliuerance and victorie, assuring himselfe, that God had preserved him from so dispaired a perill, for the persisting of some greater worke behind to his glorie, & for procuring by him the weale of his people, that God had committed to his charge. After this the tumult of the towne hearing of the slaughter of the said earle of Gowrie their Prouost, and not knowing the manner thereof, nor being on the counsell of his reasonable attempt, continued for the space of twoo or thre houres thereafter, untill his maiestie by oft speaking out to them at the windowes, and beckoning to them with his owne hand, pacifying them, causing the Bailies and the rest of the honest men of the towne to be brought into the chamber, to whome hauing declared the whole forme of that strange accident, he committed the house and bodie of the said traitours brethren, to their keeping, untill his maiesties further pleasure were knowne. His maiestie hauing before his parting out of that towne, caused to search the said earle of Gowries pockets, in case any letters that might further the discovery of that conspiracy might bee found therein. But nothing was founde in them, but a little close parchment bag, full of Magicall charaders, and wordes of enchantment, wherein it seemed that hee had put his confidence, thinking himselfe neuer safe without them, and therefore euer carried them about with him: being also obserued, that while they were vpon him, his wound wherof he died, bled not, but incontinent after the taking of them away, the blood gushed out in great abundance, to the great admiration of all the beholders. An infamy which hath followed and spotted the race of this house, for many descents, as is notoriously knowne to the whole countrie. Thus the night was farre spent, being neere eight houres at euening before

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foze his maiestie could (fo) the great tumult that was in the
towne) depart out of the same. But befoze his maiestie had
ridden foure myles out of the same towards Falkland, al-
though the night was very darke and rainy: the whole way
was clad with all sort of people, both horse and foote, meeting
him with great ioy and acclamation. The frequencie and
concurse of persons of all degrees to Falkland the rest of the
weeke, and to Edinburgh the next, from all the quarters of
the countrie, the testimony of the subiectes hearty affection
and ioy fo) his maiesties deliuerie, expessed euery where, by
ringing of bells, bonfires, shuting off guns of all sortes both
by sea and land &c. with all other things ensuing thereupon,
I haue of set purpose pretermitted, as well knowne to all
men, and unpertinent to this discourse: contenting my selfe
with this plaine and simple narration: adding onely fo) ex-
planation and confirmation thereof, the depositions of cer-
taine persons, who were either actors, and eie-witnesses, or
immediate hearers of those thinges that they declare and te-
stifie: wherein if the Reader shall find any thing differing
from this narration, either in substance or circumstance, he
may vnderstand the same to be vttered by the deponer in his
owne behoofe, fo) obtaining of his maiesties
private grace and fauor.



Apud Falkland. 9. August. 1600.

In presence of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lorde
Secretary, Lord Comptroller, Lord Advocate, the Lord
Inchewray, and Sir George Home of Spots Knights

James Melmis of Boggy of the age of 26 yeere or therby,
sworne & examined vpon the forme & maner of behauor of

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late John Erle of Gowrie, the time of his being with him at Strabzan, or if he had heard the sayd Earle make any motion of the treason intended against his roial maiestie, Depones that he neither heard nor sawe any appearance of any such intention in the sayd Earle.

Demaunded, if he was in any purpose with the said earle, against any matters of curiositie : Depones, that at their being in Strabzan, some of their companie found an Edder, which being killed, and knowledge thereof comming to the Earle, the Earle sayde to this deponer, Wagy, if the Edder had not beene slaine, yee should haue seene a good sport : for if I should haue caused her stand still, and shee should not haue pressed away, by pronouncing of an Hebræwe worde, which in Scottissh is called Holinesse, but the Hebræw word the deponer remembers not of : and that the Earle sayde hee had put the same in practise oft before. And this deponer enquiring of the Earle where he did get the Hebræw word, the Earle answered, in a Cabbalist of the Jewes, and that it was by Tradition : and the deponer inquiring what a Cabbalist meant : the Earle answered, it was some wordes which the Jewes had by Tradition, which wordes were spoken by God to Adam in Paradise, and therefore were of greater effecarie and force than any wordes which were ex-cogitate since by Prophetes and Apostles. The deponer inquiring if there were no more requisite but the worde : The Earle answered, that a firme faith in God was requisite and necessary : and that this was no matter of marvell amongst schollers, but that all these things were naturall. And that the Earle shewed to this deponer that he had spoken with a man in Italie, and first hearing by report that he was a Pigromancer, and thereafter being informed that hee was a very learned man and a deepe Theologue, hee entered in further dealing with him against the curiositie of nature.

Depones further that the sayde Earle reported to him that hee being at Pusicke, hee fell in companie with another man, who staring in the Carles face, spake to the rest of the
com

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companie thinges of him, which he could neuer attaine vnto. nor bee worthy of: and therefore that the Earle reproached him, and desired him to forbear these speeches. And that he met again with the said man in a like company, who did begin with the same language which hee had spoken before: and that the Earle sayd to him, my friend, in case yee will not holde your peace from speaking lies of mee, I will make you hold your peace by speaking truth of you, and said vnto him within such a space hee should be hanged for such a crime: and so it came to passe. This deponer inquiring of the Earle who told him that, he answered merrily, that he spake it by guesse, and it fell out so. And that the Earle sayd further, that it was nothing to make an hearbe fleshe which would dissolue in flies: and that likewise it was possible that the seed of man and woman, might be brought to perfection otherwise then by the matrix of the woman: and that this deponer counsell'd the Earle to beware with whom hee did communicate such speeches: who answered, that hee would speake them to none, but to great schollers, and that he would not haue spoken them to this deponer, if he had not knowne him to bee a fauourer of him, and a friend of his house, and would not reueale the same againe, seeing hee knewe they would be euill interpreted amongst the common sorte.

Sic subscribitur. I. Weimys of Bogie,

Apud Falkland. 20. August. 1600.

*In presence of the Lordes Chancellour,
Treasurer, Aduocate: Sir George Home of
Spot, Sir Robert Meluill, and Sir James
Meluill Knights.*

Master William Rynd, swozne and examined,
and demanded where he first did see the Characters which were found vppon my Lord: depones, that he hauing remained a space in Venice,

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nice, at his returning to Padua, did find in my Lordes pocket, the characters which were found vpon him at his death: and the deponer enquiring of my lord, where he had gotten them, my Lord answered, that by chance he had copied them himselfe: and that the deponer knowes that the Characters in latine are my Lords owne hand-writing, but he knowes not if the hebrew characters were written by my Lord. Depones further, that when my lord would change his clothes, the deponer would take the characters out of my Lords pocket, and would say to my Lord, Wherefore serues these: and my Lord would answer, Can ye not let them be: they do you no euill. And farther, the deponer declares, that sometimes my Lord would forget them, vntil he were out of his chamber, and would turne backe, as he were in an anger, vntil hee had found them, and put them in his owne pocket: Depones further, that he was sundry tymes purposed to haue burnt the characters, were it not that he feared my Lordes wrath and anger, seeing when the Deponer would purposely leaue them sometimes out of my Lordes pocket, my Lord would be in such an anger with the Deponer, that for a certayne space he would not speake with hym, nor coulde not finde his good countenance: and that (to this deponers opinion) my Lord would neuer be content to want the characters of hymselfe from the first time that the deponer sawe them in Padua, to the houre of my Lords death.

Being demanded for what cause my Lord kept the characters so well, depones, that to his opinion, it was for no good, because he heard, that in those partes, where my Lord was, they would giue sundry folkes braues.

Depones further, that maister Patricke Galloway lette this deponer see the characters, since that hee came to this towne of Falkland, and that he knowes them to be the very same characters which my Lord had. Depones also, that on monday the fourth of August, the maister, Andrew Henderson, & the deponer remained in my lords chamber til about ten houres at euen, & after a long conference betwixt the lord and the

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and the master, my Lord called for Andrew Henderson, & after some speeches with him, dismissed them.

Denies that he knew of the masters or Andrew Hendersons riding to Falkland, and after Andrewes returne from Falkland upon the morrow, howbeit he did see him booted, yet he knew not that he was come from Falkland.

Depones that my lord being at dinner when the Master came in, the deponer heard my Lord say to the Master, is the King in the Inshe? and with that he did rise, and said, let vs goe. But the deponer knowes not what the Master said to my Lord.

Being demaunded if he did see any kind of armour or weapons, except swords, in the Kings companie, depones that he did see none.

It being demaunded how the deponer was satisfied with my lords answer made to him, concerning the Kings coming to saint Iohnstoun, saying that hee knewe not how he came: declares that he thought that my Lord had dissembled with him, and that he behoued to haue knowne it, seeing his brother was come with his Maiestie befoze that he demanded of him, and that he had conferred with my Lord principally.

Depones that he knew not that the master was ridden to Falkland, until after his maiesties coming to saint Iohnstoun, that Andrew Ruthwen told him, because the deponer inquired of Andrew Ruthwen where the master and he had bin, and that Andrew answered, they had been in Falkland: & that the master hauing spoken with the King, his maiesty came forward with them, and that this conference betwixt the deponer and Andrew Ruthwen was in the yard when my lord was there. And Andrew Ruthwen shewed to the deponer, that Andrew Henderson was directed by the master, to shew my lord, that his maiesty was coming.

Depones also, that in his opinion, the master could not haue drawne the King to my Lordes house, without my Lordes knowledge: and that when hee heard the tumult,

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he was resolved in his heart the maister had done his maie-
sty wrong, and that no true christian can thinke otherwise,
but that it was an high treason, attempted against his high-
nesse by the maister and the Lord.

Depones also, that to his opinion, the Kings whole com-
pany was within a dozen of men.

Sic subscribitur. M.W.Rynd.

22. August. 1600.

Master William Rind sworne and re-examined, if euer
he heard the Earle of Gowrie utter his opinion, anent the
duetic of a wise man, in the execution of an high enterprize:
declares, that being out of the countrey, he had diuerse times
heard him reason in that matter, and that he was euer of
that opinion, that he was not a wise man, that hauing inten-
ded the execution of an high and dangerous purpose, commu-
nicate the same to any but to himselfe, because keeping it to
himselfe, it could not be discovered nor disappointed: which
the deponer declared befoze vnrequired to the Control-
ler, and master William Cowper minister at Perth: and
hearing the depositions of Andrew Henderfoun read, and
being enquired vpon his conscience, what he thought of the
fact that was committed against his maiestie, declares, that
vpon his saluation, that he beleues Andrew Henderfoun has
declared the circumstances truly.

Sic subscribitur. M.W.Rynd.

Apud Falkland. 20. August. 1600.

*In presence of the Lordes Chancellour,
Treasurer, Aduocat, Controller, and sir George
Home of Spot, sir James Meluill Knights.*

ANdrew Henderfoun sworne and examined, & deman-
ded, what purpose was betwixt him & the erle of Gow-
rie,

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rie, upon monday at night the fourth of this instant in the said Charles chamber: depones, that the carle inquired of him what he would be doing upon the mozne, and he answered that he was to ride to Ruthwen: the carle said to him, you must ride to Falkland with master Alexander my brother, and when he directs you backe, see that ye returne with all diligence, if he send a letter or any other aduertisement with you.

Depones, that the master directed him to send for Andrew Ruthwen to be in readinesse, to ride with them the morrow at foure houres in the morning.

Declares, that they comming to Falkland about seven houres in the morning, the master staid in a lodging beside the Pallace, and directed the deponer, to see what the king was doing, and the deponer finding his maiestie in the close comming forth, he passd backe, and told the master, who immediately addressed himselfe to his Highnesse, and spake with his maiestie a good space beneath the Equirie: and after his maiestie was on horse backe, the Maister cometh to the Deponer, and commaunds him to fetch their horses, and bade him haste him, as he loued my Lordes honour and his, and aduertise my Lord, that his Maiestie and he would be there incontinent, and that his maiestie would be quiet: and the deponer inquiring of the master if he should go presently, he did bid him leape on and follow him, and not to goe away until he spake with the King: and the maister hauing spoken with the King, at a breach of the Park wal, he turned backe and bade the deponer ride away, and the deponer making his returne in al possible haste to Saint Iohnstoun, he found my lord in his chamber about ten houres, who left the companye he was speaking with, and came to the deponer, and asked, hath my brother sent a letter with you: the deponer answered, no: but they will be al here incontinent, and bade the deponer desire my lord, to cause prepare the dinner. Immediately therafter, my lord took the deponer to the cabinet, & asked at him, how his maiesty took with y^e master his brother: y^e de-

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poner answered very well, and that his Maiestie laide his hand ouer the maisters shoulder. Whereafter my Lord enquired if there were many at the hunting with the King: the deponer answered, that he toke no heed, but they who were accustomed to ride with his maiestie, and some Englishmen were there: and that my Lord inquired what speciall men were with his maiestie, and that the deponer answered, he did see none but my Lord Duke. And within an houre thereafter, when the deponer came in from his owne house, the Earle bade him putte on his secret and plaite-sleeues, for hee had an hy-land man to take, which the deponer did incontinent: and about twelue houres, when the Deponer was going out to his owne house to his dinner, the Steward came to him and told him, that George Cragingelt, was not wel, and was laine downe, desired him to farry and take vp my Lordes dinner: and about halfe an houre after twelue, my Lord commanded him to take vp the first service. And when the deponer was commaunded to take vp the second service, the maister and William Blaire came into the Hall to my Lord.

The deponer remembreth himselfe, that Andrew Ruthwen came befoze the maister a certain space, and spake with my Lord quietly at the table, but heard not the particuler purpose that was amongst them. And so soone as the maister came to the Hall, my Lord and the whole company rose from the table: and the deponer hearing the noyle of their forth-going, supposed they were going to make breaches for Macconilduy: and the Deponer sent his boy for his gantlet and steile-bonnet: and seeing my Lord passe to the Inshe and not to the Shoe gate, the deponer did cast the gauntlet in the Pantry, and caused his boy to take his steile-bonnet to his owne house: and he followed my Lord to the Inshe, and returning backe with his Maiestie to the lodging, bearing directed to get drinke. And the maister came to the deponer, and did bid him cause maister William Rinde to sende him vp the keye of the Galerie chamber, who past vp & deliuered
tho

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the key to the maister: and immediately my Lorde followed
vp, and did speake with the maister, and came down againe,
and directed maister Thomas Cranstone to the deponer, to
come to his Lordship in his Maiesties chamber. And that
my Lord directed him to go vp to the Gallery to his brother:
and immediately my Lord followed vp, and commanded the
deponer to bide there with his brother, and to do any thing
that he bade him: The deponer enquired at the maister what
haue ye to do sir: the maister answered, ye must go in heere,
and tarry untill I come backe, for I will take the key with
me. So he locked the deponer in the round within the cham-
ber, and tooke the key with him. Shortly thereafter, the
maister returned, and the Kings Maiestie with him to the
said cabinet in the round: and the maister opening the doore,
entered with the King into the said rounde: and at his verie
entrie couering his head, pulled out the deponers dagger,
and held the same to his Maiesties breast, saying: Remem-
ber ye of my fathers murther: ye shall now die for it: and
minting to his Highnes heart with the dagger, the deponer
threw the same out of the maisters hand: and swore, that
as God shall iudge his soule, if the maister had retained the
dagger in his hand the space that a man may goe sixe steps,
he would haue cricken the King to the hiltes with it: but
wanting the dagger, and the Kinges maiesty giuing him a
gentle answer, he said to the kinges maiesty with abhomi-
nable oathes, that if he would keepe silence, nothing shoulde
aile him, if he would make such promise to his brother, as
they would craue of him: and the kinges maiesty inquiring
what promise they would craue: he answered that he would
bring his brother. So he goes forth, and lockes the doore of
the round vpon his maiesty and the deponer: hauing first
taken oath of the king that he should not crie, nor open the
windowe.

And his maiesty inquiring of the deponer what he was:
he answered, a seruant of my Lords. And his maiesty asking
of the deponer, if my Lord would doe any euill to him: the

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deponer answered, as God shal iudge my soul, I shal die first. And the deponer pressing to haue opened the window, the Maister entred, and said: Sir, there is no remedie, By God you must die: and hauing a lase garter in his hand, pressed to haue bound his maiesties hands, and the deponer pulled the garter out of maister Alexander his hand. And then the Maister did put one of his hands in his Maiesties mouth, to haue stayed him to speake, and helde his other arme about his Highnesse necke: and that this deponer pulled the maisters hand from his highnesse mouth, and opened the window: and then his Maiestie cryed out thereat, wherevpon his Highnesse seruant came in at the gate, and this deponer did runne and open the doze of the Turnepecke head, whereat Iohn Ramsay entered: and the deponer stode in the Chamber untill he did see Iohn Ramsay giue the maister a stroke: and thereafter priniely conueyed himselfe downe the Turnepecke to his owne house: and the deponers wife enquiring of him, what the fray meant: the deponer answered, that the kings maiestie would haue bene twice killed, had not hee releued him.

Sic subscribitur Andrew Henderson
with my hand.

Further

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Further, the saide Andrew Henderfoun Depones, that after his returning from Falkland on the fift of this instant, Maister Iohn Montcrief enquiring of him where hee had beene: He answered, that he had beene beyond the brydge of Erne, and sayes that he gaue that answer to maister Iohn, because my Lord commaunded him to let no man know that he was to ride to Falkland: and that my Lordes direction to him, was, to come backe with his brother maister Alexanders answer, and to leaue Andrew Ruthwen to awaite vpon the maister.

Sic subscribitur Andrew Henderfoun
with my hand.

Further, the sayde Andrew Henderfoun Depones, that when he had taken the maisters hand out of the Kinges maiesties mouth, and was opening the windoe, Maister Alexander sayde to him, wilt thou not helpe: Woe betyde thee, thou wilt make vs all die.

Sic subscribitur Andrew Henderfoun
with my hand.

FINIS.

